



The Parish of Wellow

Wellow Church and Parish News

October 2026

“Casting into the deep” by Matthew Street, The Vicar, based on Luke 5:1-11

“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’

Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.’ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him..” Luke 5:1-11

Anyone who tends a garden, volunteers for a local project, or tries to teach a stubborn skill knows the sinking feeling of putting in hours of hard graft and coming away with nothing to show for it.

Simon Peter and his crew knew that feeling well. In Luke 5, they had toiled through the night on the Sea of Galilee—the prime time for catching fish—and caught absolutely nothing. Cold, bone-weary, and cleaning their nets

Visit the Church website: www.stjsgroup.church

Sunday Services in October

Ask the Animals – Fish

Sunday 4 October 10.00 a.m.
Mission Sunday

Leader: Derek Smith

Speaker: Dorothy House Volunteer

Sunday 11 October 10.00 a.m.
H. C.

Talk: The Miraculous Catch – Luke 5:1–11

Leader: Matthew Street

Speaker: Matthew Street

Sunday 18 October 10.00 a.m.
All Age Worship

Talk: All kinds of fish - Matthew 13:47–51

Leader: AAW Team

Speaker: AAW Team

Sunday 25 October 10.00 a.m.

Talk: Five Loaves and Two Fish - Mark 6:35–44

Leader: Rachel Howlett

Speaker: Jo Vening

Contact the Vicar:

The Revd. Matthew Street

Tel: 01761 432293

Email: mgstreet@me.com
or through the church website.

Benefice Office

For anything church related contact the Benefice Office:

Tel: 07973972018

Email: office@stjsgroup.church

Advertising in this Newsletter

FREE for voluntary organisations and charities based in Wellow. All other individuals and businesses, whether based in Wellow or elsewhere.

Full page: £10 per month: £100 per annum
Half page: £5 per month: £50 per annum.

Details from the editor

Church Community Groups

Wellow Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Phone Pauline for details: 832625

Benefice Praise and Prayer

Every Monday, 7.45pm–9.30pm

@ The Vicarage, Peasedown *'God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.'* John 4:24. Please join us as we praise God, hear His Word, and come to Him in prayer.

St John's Peasedown

1st Sunday 9.00am BC 10.30am HC

4.30pm SF

2nd Sunday 10.30am W4E

3rd Sunday 10.30am HC 4.30pm SF HC

4th Sunday 10.30am 4.30pm SF

BC = Bubble Church

HC = Holy Communion

SF = Soul Food: A service with modern

lively music followed by a family tea

MP = Morning Praise

W4E = Worship for Everyone

Want to keep in touch?

St Julian's Church sends out a weekly e-newsletter with all the latest news and views from around the Benefice.

Email **administrator@stjsgroup.church** to subscribe to the mailing list.

Visit the Church website: www.stjsgroup.church

to call it a day, they are met by a travelling preacher who offers an absurd suggestion: “Push out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Every practical bone in a seasoned fisherman’s body would scream against it. Yet Peter takes a leap of faith: “Master, we’ve worked hard all night... but because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

The result was an abundance that broke the nets and threatened to sink two boats.

In a village community where so many quietly pour energy into families, caregiving, work, and local causes, routine exhaustion can easily make us want to pack up our nets. It’s tempting to decide that certain problems won’t shift or that fresh efforts aren’t worth the risk of another empty haul.

Yet grace often meets us right at the end of our own strength. Sometimes all it takes is the courage to try just once more—venturing out into the deeper waters of trust, kindness, and hope.

Church News

The All Age Worship service in September was Harvest Festival and was well attended, though it would be nice to see more of children at the service. We were grateful for all the donations to the Food Bank that we received.

There were two weddings held at St Julian’s in September which were lovely occasions, although the weather was not as kind as it might have been for the second one!

Sunday 4th October is Mission Sunday and we are looking forward to welcoming a speaker from Dorothy House at the service. This was one of the charities we supported this year, together with The Tear Fund and Bibles for Children.

A reminder that Sunday 1st November will be Remembering Loved Ones Sunday. If you wish to add a name to the list, you can do so on the St J’s Group website at <https://www.stjsgroup.church/life-events/remembering-loved-ones> or by emailing the St J’s Group office at office@stjsgroup.church or by calling the church office on 07973 972018.

And on Sunday 8th November will be Remembrance Sunday. The service will be led by Dick Beath and will be at 10.45 a.m.

Pam Pike and Jane Rees, Church Warden

*Community Matters: Support your Village
The Parlour Shop, the Village Hall, the Church and the Societies*

The extension at St Julian's Church

A church for the whole village. For generations to come.

The church is there for all of us. We want to make it a more welcoming, useful and accessible place for the whole village — a place where people can be a community, celebrate, learn, eat, talk, reflect and belong.

To do that, we are transforming the facilities within this beautiful historic church. Better facilities mean greater possibilities for the whole community:

- More opportunities to gather
- Better facilities for children and the school
- Enjoy food and drink
- Community activities
- A more accessible building
- A more welcoming experience

Using this beautiful building more will help us keep it alive and cared for, for future generations.

Here are responses to some questions we have been asked:

Question: We have been hearing for years that St. Julian's church wanted to have toilets and a kitchenette accessed from inside the church. Why has it taken so long?

Answer: It has been a long, hard road to obtain the permissions necessary to proceed. St Julian's is a 15th century Grade 1 listed building with one of the most complete and unaltered interiors still existing and many unique features, which many of the authorities, whose permission was required didn't want changed. We had to persuade them that our need, which we see as critical to the survival of the church as a functioning part of the village, was more important than "protecting" the building.

Question: Why choose the option to build a single storey extension abutting with the north wall of the tower and the west wall of the north aisle in the church? Couldn't you have just removed pews inside the church to create the necessary space?

Answer: Unlike many other churches, the pews in St Julian's are original to the church and so it would have been very difficult to get permission. It would also have been very difficult to design facilities in the church that were in keeping and did not intrude on the use of the church. Also, at times the church is full to overflowing, often with the need for extra chairs, so we

do use all the pews on special occasions. Removing pews would exacerbate this situation.

Also, by accessing the new extension from the area under the tower we will enable much more use of an area that is under- used at present.

Question: Why is the proposed building extension so very expensive? The target for fundraising of £250,000 is enormous. Why?

Answer: The target figure may seem unduly high, but the works involve creating a new doorway by knocking through a 1.5m (5 feet) wide stone and rubble wall that is supporting a 26m (84 feet) high tower. This will be a challenging engineering job requiring great care and expertise. Those works are expensive. Then there are the construction costs. These reflect the requirement for high-quality building materials which are sympathetic to the Grade I Listed building status of St. Julian's Church.

Question: The project cost just for two toilets and a kitchenette is enormous. Are you having 9 carat gold fittings?

Answer: Not unless someone donates them! They will be bog-standard fittings; one will be an accessible toilet and both will have baby changing facilities.

The kitchenette is equally important for the future use and viability of the church. Besides providing a place for making hot drinks and serving refreshments. It will lead to the area under the tower becoming a welcoming social place for all to enjoy.

Question: What is happening to raise funds for this project?

Answer: We are actively applying for grants. We will be arranging fundraising events which we hope you will support. If you have any good ideas for fundraising events and would like to get involved please do let us know. The more the merrier.

Help and support from the Wellow Village community is also vital. Please consider donating to this important, worthwhile project which is for everyone. You can do this through the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a safe, secure method of donating specifically to the extension project and, if donors consent to allowing Grant Aid on their donation(s), we will receive the added tax benefit. Donations can be made on a one-off or regular basis if preferred.

Question: When will the extension be built?

Don't forget to visit the Wellow website @ www.wellowparish.info

Answer: We hope that building works will start in Spring next year.

Question: Why not deal with the occasional small leaks in the church roof and improve the heating system before building an extension?

Answer: It may not appear so, but we are constantly working on maintaining the building to ensure that it is watertight and fit for purpose. However, it is sometimes difficult to establish the cause of some of the problems.

We believe that having these modern facilities will enable us to generate more income to enable these and other things to be done.

We will give regular up-dates on progress.

If you have any questions about our church building extension project, please contact Jane Rees or Pam Pike. We would love to hear from you.

Help us make St Julian's a place for the whole village — fit for the future - today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Opening the church

You will be aware that the church is opened every day from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. There is a dedicated band of volunteers who make this happen. It is wonderful that we are still able to do this as so many churches can't. Many people visit our beautiful church and even those who are not regular churchgoers often find peace and tranquillity there. There are only a few people on this rota and recently two of these no longer feel able to carry out this task. If there is anyone who would be willing to join this rota either on a regular day or as a stand-in for when people are away, they would be very welcome. If you feel able to join this team, please either telephone Stewart Cole on 01225 835862 or contact the Editor.

The Parish Magazine

Many of you will be aware that the Parish Magazine is delivered to every house in the Parish. The magazine is paid for by St Julian's Church as a service to the village and, although, in this day and age, it is tempting to make it a digital publication, we feel strongly that this should remain a paper publication so that no-one in the village is left out from getting the church and village news. The Wellow Horticultural Society very kindly make a donation each year towards the cost, for which the church is extremely grateful, and we would welcome any other donations, if other organisations feel they would like to help.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

THANK YOU so much to everyone who came to our Coffee Morning on Thursday and to everyone who kindly donated online to Macmillan. We really cannot thank you enough.

We are so grateful for your generosity, the total raised was £1359. We were able to give Macmillan £679 and Breast Cancer Now £679.

Thank you so much - hope to see you again next year.

Vicky & Karen

Lunch Club

Lunch Club dates for 2026: If you are unable to make it please call Vicky on 0797 7900 387. If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome. Thank you.

23rd Oct

20th Nov

11th Dec

The Lunch Club Team



Wellow Community Bus

Volunteer Drivers needed!

Did you dream of being a bus driver when you were a kid?

Well now's your chance. We need extra volunteer drivers to share the task of driving village groups on their trips, sports fixtures and parties. Our minibus is proving extremely popular so extra hands are required. We only expect volunteers to drive once a month on average.

The only qualification is to have a D1 permit on your driving licence to enable you to drive a 16-seater minibus. Additional MIDAS training will be provided by us to bring you up to scratch to drive passengers.

Please call Mike on 07854 414084 or email wellowbus@gmail.com if you would like to find out more and check out our website www.bus.wellow.org



St Julian's Church Wellow



Spend a Penny Appeal

help us raise

£250,000

for our 2 new toilets and
kitchen

Find out more at www.stjsgroup.church/help-fund-our-extension or
scan the QR code to find out more
and donate



so we can say "goodbye" to our Portaloo!



Wellow to Shoscombe Vale Road Design Scheme.

Following on from their earlier consultations and initial designs, the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly known as Sustrans) have published their final set of public drawings for the Wellow to Shoscombe Vale Road Design Scheme. These reflect feedback received from last year's engagement event and further discussions with stakeholders. A copy of the drawings, in pdf format, can be found on the Wellow Parish Website (www.wellowparish.info) under the Wellow Parish Council subpage. This is one of the trust's final outputs and the project will now be progressed by the Local Highway Authority.

Please note that these drawings have been issued for information only; there is no consultation associated with them.

Chris Cook, Wellow Parish Council

AN EVENING WITH... A HEAT PUMP

Wednesday 14th October | 7-8.30 PM

Wellow Sports Pavillion, Wellow, Bath BA2 8QA

Curious about heat pumps? Come along for an informative, friendly evening with local people who've had heat pumps installed in their homes.

- Discover how heat pumps can cut carbon and energy bills
- Hear from neighbours already living with heat pumps
- Get practical tips from an expert heat pump assessor
- Ask questions in an open Q&A

**Scan the QR code to
register, or just drop in!**



BW Bath & West
Community
Energy

**Retrofit
West**

WEST MAYORAL
OF ENGLAND COMBINED
AUTHORITY

dorothyhouse.org.uk

Moments of Light

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VISIT BATH

A WORLD HERITAGE SPA CITY

A free,
large-scale
light
installation.

Reg Charity No 275745

This autumn, something extraordinary will
unfold at Dorothy House in Winsley.

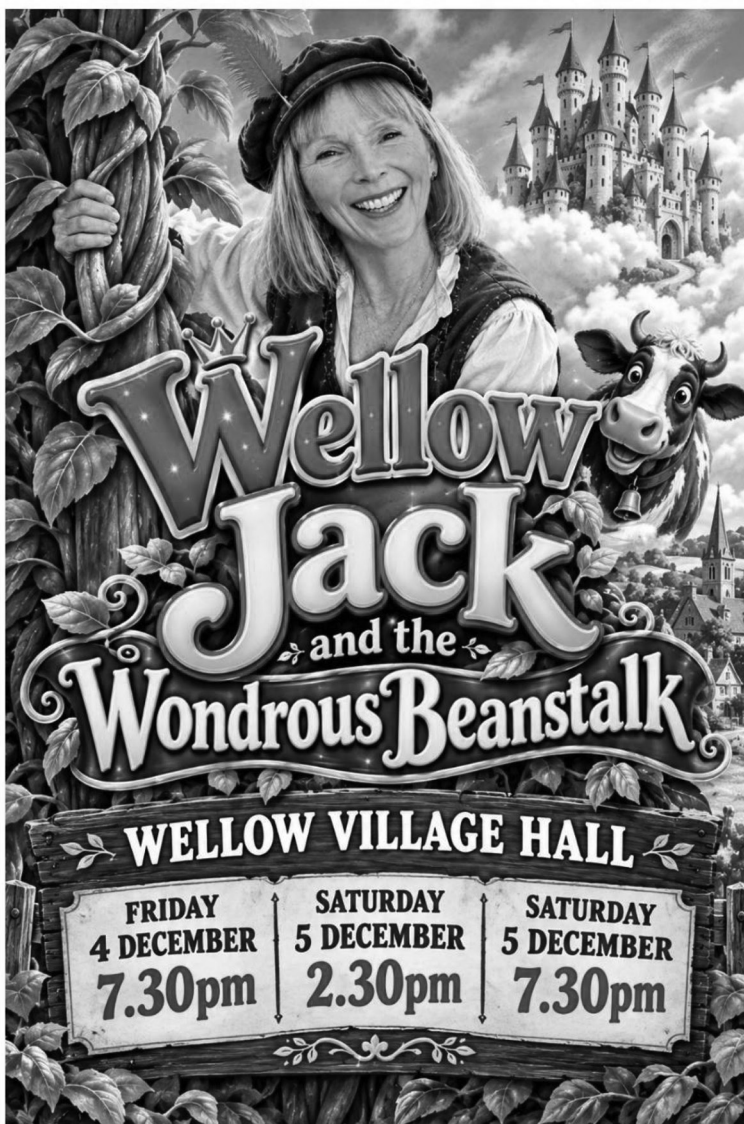
Come and experience a moment of light in the darkness,
an evening of awe and reflection within the glow of
world-renowned artist Bruce Munro's extraordinary vision.

1 October - 31 December 2026

**BOOK
NOW**



CELEBRATING
FIFTY YEARS



Not to be missed!! All profits to go to The Community Chest

Buy your tickets at the Parlour Shop:

Adult £10

Senior (over 65) £7

Child £5

Wellow Parish Diary

Regular activities:

Parish Council meetings: Village Hall; Contact: Parish Clerk: Email: clerk@wellowpc.org.uk

Magic Box Pre-School: Village Hall; Mondays, Wednesday and Friday in term-time. 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Contact: Tel: 0771 2369130 or Email: MagicBoxPre-School@outlook.com

Wellow Wellbeing Art & Craft Group: Village Hall; Tuesdays, 10.00-12.30. Contact Averil Swift: Tel: 01373 834384.

Wellow Knitting Group: Manor Close Community Hall: Monday's 1.30-4 p.m. Contact Pam Pike. Tel: 07428 846473 Email: pamelapike8@gmail.com

Bellringing: Wednesday evening, 7.30 p.m. at St Julian's Church. Contact Clover Holland; Tel: 01225 833348; Email: cloverholland@outlook.com

Lunch Club: Village Hall; 3rd Thursday in the month, September to June. Contact: Vicky Hammerton: Tel: 0797 7900 387

Mobile Library: Alternate Tuesdays. Village hall: 10.45-11.45 a.m.

Wellow Parish Directory:

Wellow Horticultural Society: Secretary: Tel: 07966 080005; Email: info@hortsoc.wellow.org

Parlour Shop: Tel: 835438; Email: wellowparlourshop@gmail.com

Wellow Village Hall bookings: Tel: 0797 7900 387. Email: canndu@live.com

Wellow Community Bus: Contact: Mike Tel: 07854 414084, Email: michaelj-clarkson@gmail.com

Friends of St. Julians: Contact: Email: friends@stjulianswellow.co.uk

Wellow Valley Tennis: Contact: Email: wvtennisclub@gmail.com

BANES Local Councillors: Matt McCabe: Tel: 07711 047267; Email: mattmccabe.1@outlook.com. Fiona Gourley: Tel: 07803 015886; Email: Fiona_Gourley@bathnes.gov.uk

Westlink, flexible bus service: Website: westlink.app.ridewithvia.com]westlink.app.ridewithvia.com Tel: 0117 4578561 Email: westlink@wedrt.com

Parish Magazine Editor: Jane Rees, 3 Weavers Orchard, Wellow; Tel: 07950 605239; Email: jane@reestools.co.uk. Please let me have material for the following month's magazine **by 18th of each month.**

If you do not wish to keep this paper copy of the Pariah Magazine, please put it in either in the Parlour Shop or St Julian's Church for visitors to enjoy.

Printed by St Phillip and St James' Church, Odd Down.

Published and Promoted by St Julian's Parish Church at the St J's Group Office, The Vicarage, Church Road, Peasedown St John, BA2 8AA, administrator@stjsgroup.church